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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending and stand rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

Claims 8-9 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-7 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Edens (USP no. 6,611,537).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the rejection of the claim. However, independent claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter recited in dependent claims 2 and 3. Although, claims 2 and 3 has been rejected citing the same reference (Edens), it will be shown that Edens fails to disclose the specific claim elements recited.

More specifically, Edens discloses a network of having a ring structure where the user device serves as each node. In the present invention, the SP and SG each serve as a node and the backbone network is not affected by the event of blocking events of a user cluster network in the SP.

A claim is not anticipated unless each and every element of the claim is recited in a single reference.

Edens fails to anticipate the invention recited in independent claim 1 as Edens fails to recite each and every element recited therein.

For at least this reason, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims depend from independent claim 1 and that these claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable base claim.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/798,165

Docket 5000-1-592

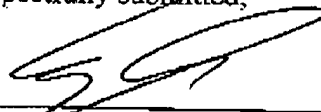
With regard to the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8-9, applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter but believes that for the amendments made to the claims, all the claims are in allowable form.

For the arguments presented herein, applicant submits that the rejection of the claims has been overcome and respectfully requests that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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